

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAA-01 SES-01 SSM-05 IO-15 DOE-15  
SOE-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /109 W  
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O 130545Z FEB 79

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4876

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USLO RIYADH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD) SA

SUBJ: SECDEF BROWN'S REMARKS AT SAUDI MILITARY OFFICERS'

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CLUB FEBRUARY 10

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN'S  
AFTER-DINNER REMARKS DELIVERED AT THE SAUDI MILITARY  
OFFICERS' CLUB IN RIYADH ON FEBRUARY 10, 1979.

1. BEGIN TEXT. YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SULTAN,

697YOUR HIGHNESSES, GUESTS.

2. I HAD BEARD A LOT OF WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT SAUDI HOSPITALITY. NOW THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE, I CAN TESTIFY THAT SAUDI HOSPITALITY DESERVES ITS FAME.

3. IN PREPARING FOR MY VISIT TO THE KINGDOM, I FOUND THAT PRESIDENT TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO HIS MAJESY KING ABD AL-AZIZ ON OCTOBER 11, 1950 SAID THAT AGGRESSION OR A THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. THAT WAS OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO. MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THAT QUARTER CENTURY. IN FACT, NOT EVEN THE MOST IMAGINATIVE SAUDI OR AMERICAN FRIEND COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT RIYADH--I AM TOLD IT MEANS A "PALM GROVE"--WOULD HAVE EMERGED AS IT STANDS AROUND US TONIGHT: A MODERN CITY, THE SEAT OF A GOVERNMENT WITH INFLUENCE THAT STRETCHES AROUND THE WORLD.

5. I AM IMPRESSED WITH THIS ACHIEVEMENT. I AM ALSO IMPRESSED THAT EVERY AMERICAN PRESIDENT SINCE TRUMAN REPEATED OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE KINGDOM. MR. EISENHOWER, MR. KENNEDY, MR. JOHNSON, MR. NIXON, AND NOW MR. CARTER HAVE ALL ADDRESSED THIS SUBJECT. IT IS PERHAPS NOT TOO MUCH TO DESCRIBE THAT COMMITMENT AS HAVING CONTRIBUTED

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IN AT LEAST A SMALL WAY, ALONG WITH NATIVE SAUDI WISDOM AND VISION, TO A FUNDAMENTALLY REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT THAT SHOWS ON EVERY SIDE AROUND US.

6. LET US LOOK AT THE RECORD. IN MAY 1956 PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WROTE KING SAUD THAT THE U.S. CONTINUED TO BE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE KINGDOM.

7. IN OCTOBER 1962 PRESIDENT KENNEDY WROTE KING FAISAL TO REPEAT THIS ASSURANCE. THE NEXT YEAR, WITH DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS IN YEMEN, HE SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM.

8. IN LETTERS IN 1963, 1964 AND 1965, PRESIDENT JOHNSON REITERATED THOSE ASSURANCES AND PROVIDED MORE SPECIFIC ASSURANCES FOR SUPPORT AGAINST UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION.

9. PRESIDENT NIXON WROTE THAT A STRONG, STABLE AND SECURE SAUDI ARABIA IS ESSENTIAL TO THE STABILITY OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. HE OFFERED ASSURANCES OF THE CONTINUITY OF OUR STRONG INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA'S

SECURITY AND WELFARE.

10. PRESIDENT FORD REAFFIRMED THIS AND PRESIDENT CARTER,  
IN A LETTER LAST YEAR, EXPRESSED ONCE AGAIN U.S. CONCERN  
FOR SAUDI SECURITY AND SUPPORT FOR ITS INTEGRITY.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4877

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11. I AM HERE AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TONIGHT TO SAY  
THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO  
PROVIDE THE STRENGTH TO MEET EXTERNAL THREATS TO THE KINGDOM.

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12. YOUR OWN STRENGTH HAS GROWN. UNDER THE STRONG LEADERSHIP OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SULTAN, THE SAUDI ARMY, AIR FORCE. AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, AND NAVY ARE BETTER EQUIPPED AND TRAINED TODAY THAN EVERY BEFORE. WE ARE SURE OF YOUR RESOLUTION, AS WELL.

13 BUT THE THREATS ARE GREATER TOO. INSTABILITY IN THE REGION HAS MANY SOURCES: THE ARAB-ISRALI CONFLICT, RADICAL GROUPS IN THE REGION, AND SOVIET AMBITIONS.

14. I HAVE BROUGHT AMERICAN IDEAS FOR A BROAD STRATEGY TO MEET THESE DANGERS. IT IS A STRATEGY WHICH PROVIDES, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST, A LARGER U.S. SECURITY ROLE IN THE REGION. IT IS A STRATEGY THAT PROPOSES EXPANDED BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS. IN THIS EFFORT, ALSO, WE ARE RESPONDING TO SPECIFIC SAUDI REQUESTS BUT, IN A DEEPER SENSE, WE SEE OUR OWN INTERESTS INVOLVED AND MUTUAL INTEREST SERVED.

15. BUT IT IS NOT A PURELY MILITARY STRATEGY. WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC AND ECONONOMIC EFFORTS TO SHORE UP SECURITY IN THE REGION AND PROTECT OUR INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD.

16. THESE ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION FAILS SO DRAMATICALLY. THEY OFFER MOSTLY GUNS. THEY SPREAD VIOLENCE. THEY INVOLVE THE MSELVES IN WASTEFUL AND INTERACTABLE CONFLICTS.

17. BECAUSE BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE STRONG, AND BECUSE OUR METHODS ARE BETTER, I AM CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW: WE WILL DO OUR PART.

18. WE WILL DO OUR PART IN MILITARY SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS. WE WILL DO OUR PART IN JOINT ACONOMIC EFFORTS, INCLUDING  
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DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF WHICH THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS ARE THE VITAL FIRST STEP, WE KNOW THST OUR FRIENDS WILL ALSO DO THEIR BEST TO ADVANCE THAT PEACE PROCESS.

19. WHAT IS APPARENT FROM THE RECORD IS THE IMPORTANCE TO US BOTH OF CONTINUED TRUST AND COOPERATION. THAT SHOULD BE OUR GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE, A FUTURE IN WHICH WE WILL UNDERTAKE TO  
-- BRING ABOUT A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT

OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

-- SET A COURSE OF SOUND AND ORDERLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR  
THE AREA

-- FRUSTRATE, THROUGH WELL-DESIGNAD PROGRAMS OF MILITARY  
STRENGTH, THOSE WHO WISH US ILL.

20. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

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